

Date Mailed April 24, 1998

BEFORE THE
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

Notification by Hillsboro Telephone Company, Inc.,
That It Intends to Increase Telephone Rates

2560-TR-101

NOTICE OF INVESTIGATION AND ASSESSMENT OF COSTS

On April 6, 1998, the Public Service Commission (Commission) received notification from Hillsboro Telephone Company, Inc., that it intends to increase rates for local exchange telephone service at its Hillsboro exchange in Vernon, Juneau and Sauk counties. The utility intends to mail notice of the increase to its customers on May 1, 1998. Under § 196.215(3)(a), Stats., the proposed rates will become effective August 1, 1998, as specified in the notice. Customers have the opportunity to petition the Commission for an investigation of the utility's rate increase.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Commission will investigate this matter under § 196.215(3)(a), Wis. Stats. If the Commission receives a petition from at least 156 customers of the utility within 60 days of the mailing of the notice to customers requesting that the Commission determine rates, tolls, and charges, the utility's proposed increases may still go into effect; however, the rates will then be subject to refund and further investigation will be necessary.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Commission deems it necessary in order to carry out its duties herein to investigate the books, accounts, practices and activities of Hillsboro Telephone Company, Inc., as a public utility. The expenses incurred or to be incurred by the Commission which are reasonably attributable to such investigation will be assessed against and collected from Hillsboro Telephone Company, Inc., as a public utility, in accordance with the provisions of § 196.85, Stats., and ch. PSC 5, Wis. Adm. Code.

This action is classified as a Type III action according to § PSC 4.10(3), Wis. Adm. Code. Furthermore, since no unusual circumstances have come to the attention of the Commission which indicate that significant environmental consequences are likely, neither an environmental impact statement under § 1.11, Stats., nor an environmental assessment is required.

Questions on this matter may be directed to Tom Gross of the Telecommunications Division, at (608) 267-2337.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, _____

By the Commission:

Lynda L. Dorr
Secretary to the Commission

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